

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 OIC-02 SP-02

AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-05 IO-10 PA-01 PRS-01

USIE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 L-02 H-02 /109 W

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O R 051648Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0838

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06773

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, JM

SUBJ: UK PROPOSAL FOR COMMODITIES--EARLY FCO VIEWS ON
REACTION

REF: LONDON 6708

1. WE CALLED ON PETER MARSHALL, FCO ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY, MORNING OF MAY 5 TO DISCUSS THE UK COMMODITY PROPOSAL. MARSHALL FELT, ON BASIS OF ADMITTEDLY FRAGMENTARY REPORTS, THAT REACTION TO PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S COMMODITY PROPOSAL WAS ABOUT AS EXPECTED. THE PROPOSAL HAD NOT RECEIVED UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT, BUT HE FELT THE UK EMPHASIS ON PRACTICALITIES WAS USEFUL AND NEEDED IN WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS BRITISH PRAGMATISM VS. NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO) DOGMA. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE THOUGHT FIRST REACTIONS WERE REMARKABLY GOOD; ALTHOUGH WITH SECOND THOUGHTS MANY CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS APPARENTLY FELT THEY HAD TO
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LINE UP WITH BURNHAM AND THE NIEO POSITION.

2. MARSHALL FELT THAT THE COMMODITY STUDY GROUP PROPOSED BY BURNHAM COULD HAVE SOME BENEFICIAL RESULTS-- PARTICULARLY AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND COMMODITY ACTION IN OTHER FORA. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WORK IN THIS GROUP SHOULD BE THOUGHT OF AS PARALLEL TO WHAT WAS BEING DONE ELSEWHERE. HE SAID THE GROUP, IF FORMED, SHOULD NOT BE THE ONLY BODY CONSIDERING THIS ISSUE AND THE UK WOULD NOT WISH TO BE OBLIGED TO AWAIT RESULTS FROM THE GROUP BEFORE DISCUSSING THE SAME SUBJECT ELSEWHERE. MARSHALL BELIEVED THE COMMODITY ISSUE WAS BEING TREATED AS A DISCRETE ONE AT KINGSTON, WITH LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF A TRADE-OFF BETWEEN THIS AND POLITICAL ISSUES BEING FACED BY THE CONFERENCE.

3. COMMENT: MARSHALL TENDED TAKE A MORE FAVORABLE VIEW OF THE RECEPTION OF THE UK PROPOSAL THAN HAS THE LONDON PRESS, WHICH HAS TENDED TO HIGHLIGHT BURNHAM'S POSITION AS A REBUFF FOR WILSON.

RICHARDSON

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